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UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 000267

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR CICTE FIFTH REGULAR SESSION,  
FEBRUARY 16-18, 2005, IN PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD

REF: SECSTATE 17684

1. On February 4, POLOFF met with Ambassador Victor Beauge, Special Representative for Terrorism Affairs, to deliver reftel demarche regarding the upcoming fifth session of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) in Port of Spain, Trinidad on February 16-18, 2005.

2. Ambassador Beauge said he would lead the Argentine delegation to the session, but that the GOA not yet approved the final list of attendees it plans to send. Thus far, the delegation will be comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Interior Ministry, the Coast Guard and the Argentine National Intelligence Service. Beauge said that next week plans will finalize and he would be in touch with any relevant changes in the agenda.

3. Argentina has not yet sent in its annual CICTE report, however it intends to present a copy of its UNSCR 1373 report during the February 16-18 CICTE session. Beauge believes that the UNSCR 1373 report would be adequate for CICTE, as the two reports cover essentially the same material.

4. Ambassador Beauge said the GOA planned to make an announcement regarding its plans to provide further aid during the February session. He pointed out that CICTE aid is voluntary and that Argentina has made past contributions by hosting training courses. The GOA is hoping to receive approval and joint-funding through CICTE to expand its scholarship-training program through the Argentine National Intelligence Service.

5. Regarding the use of language previously agreed to in past CICTE meetings, referring to "connections" between terrorism and related crimes, Beauge said he agrees with the US position that altering the language only weakens it. While Beauge is personally supportive of our position he said he has not yet received official instructions.

LLORENS